

News From The Good Shepherd



Dear Friends in Christ:

During April we journey into the most holy of weeks. The events surrounding our Lord in his last days are also reflected in our life as well. Let's take a closer look at what's ahead. First though, to set the stage, we remember the raising of Lazarus. We are reminded that whatever is the darkest, ugliest, tomb we find ourselves in, listen to the voice of our Lord calling us to "Come out." And Love will unbind us and set us free. And may we then help to unwrap the grave clothes of others that keep people from being restored to new life.

Palm/Passion Sunday. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Most of us have had moments when friends or family have cheered us on, celebrating who we are or what we have accomplished, much as the crowd did for Jesus. However, we are reminded that at the very same time that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, Pilate was entering the city by another gate riding a stallion. The force of power and the power of humility. We know that love will always overcome the power of evil. Love is the answer. Always.

Maundy Thursday. Here we have the wonderful example of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, knowing full well that one of those disciples will betray him. To be betrayed by someone we love is a pain and hurt that is very difficult to overcome. With God's help may we learn to grow in our journey of being able to forgive those who have hurt us, and to be able to forgive ourselves for those we have hurt or betrayed. And after the washing of the feet of his disciples, Jesus gives us a new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. May we wash the feet of others in small or large ways, and be thankful for those times when our feet have been washed. It is also this night that Jesus provides for us the sacrament of his body and blood to sustain and nourish us, and it is our pledge of eternal life.

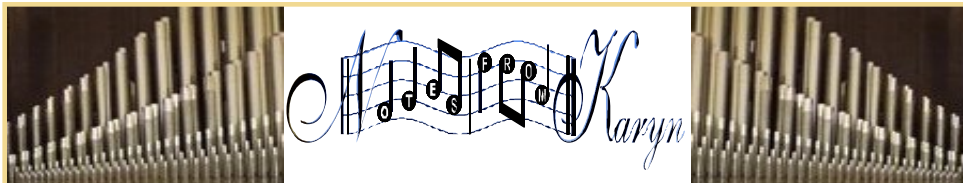
Good Friday. All of us have had our own Good Friday. Perhaps we have had many experiences that have certainly felt like a Good Friday. Jesus is always there with us sharing our pain and deep suffering, and at the end of the day, although sometimes difficult to discern at the time, turning our Good Fridays into new life, wholeness, and renewal. Many have experienced this time and time again.

Holy Saturday. Emptiness and dark days as we grieve the loss of a dear loved one. We pray for faith and courage to face these days, "not sorrowing as people without hope, but in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love." BCP p. 505.

Sunday of the Resurrection. "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever has faith in me shall live, even though he dies; and no one who lives and has faith in me shall never die." John 11:25-26. In the resurrection of our Lord, we too are promised new and eternal life. Resurrection is not only about our final physical death, but it is also about the raisings and renewals that happen throughout our lives as we experience smaller deaths, as painful as they may be. When we allow the power of the Spirit to transform and raise us to new life, we find that we are brought home. Home to the place within ourselves where we are most healed, most centered, and most at peace. And just as importantly, we come to a sense deep within ourselves that we are loveable and good, that God loves us.

"Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia." BCP p. 355.

Faithfully,



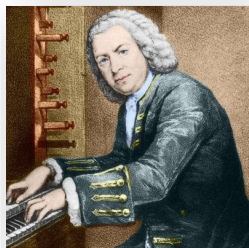
Don't miss this!!!
An EROI Organ Recital – here at Good Shepherd
Sunday, April 16 at 4:00 p.m.

We are very fortunate to be able to host an EROI (Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative) concert once again after a hiatus due to COVID. Those who have been able to attend in the past can tell you what a treat it is to hear students from Eastman play the organ at Good Shepherd. It is always an afternoon of superb and varied music. This year there will be four students playing from the undergraduate, masters or doctoral programs. Admission to the recital is free but donations are welcome to raise funds for the students' study expenses and to invite internationally acclaimed organists to give master classes at Eastman. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to assist these organists to further their studies. You won't want to miss this event on **Sunday, April 16 at 4:00 pm.**

Part of EROI is the presentation of these organ concerts throughout the Rochester area by students at the Eastman School of Music. The aim of these concerts is to bring diverse styles of organ music to the community, as well as showcase the magnificent organs to the public. We are fortunate to be able to host one of these concerts.

In addition to community concerts, the intent of EROI is to put Rochester on the map as a global center for organ performance, research, building and preservation. Purchased in 2001 and completed in 2005, the Italian Organ at the Memorial Art Gallery was the first acquisition in reaching this goal. The organ is a historical gem for our community. It's the only full-scale Italian Baroque organ in North America. The pipes date back to 1670. In addition to special concerts featuring this organ at the art gallery, the Eastman students give weekly performances on the instrument on Sunday afternoons. After purchasing the Italian Organ, other historical instruments were bought or replicated. This includes the Saunders/Craighead organ at Christ Church, which was funded by Eastman and our Episcopal Diocese and replicates organs played by J.S. Bach. This is just the beginning of the plan to assemble a collection of new and historic organs unparalleled in North America. An incomparable teaching resource, this collection will offer access to organs of diverse styles and traditions to talented young musicians from around the world.

It is wonderful that Good Shepherd can have a part in EROI's endeavors by hosting one of their community concerts. Come enjoy an amazing afternoon of music by some talented organists on our own Moeller organ! This is an opportunity you will be glad you didn't miss!!!



**The Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd**

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Wester NY 14580**

gswebsterny@gmail.com

goodshepherdepiscopal.org

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Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
 The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane

Rector
 The Rev. Lance D. Robbins
lancerobbinsgs@gmail.com
 (585) 739-2281

Deacon Emeritus
 The Rev. Barbara Fornalik
 (585) 216-2121

Music Director/Organist
 Dr. Karyn Robbins
gswebsternymusic@gmail.com
 (585) 787-1852

Administrative Assistant
 Debbie Markowitz
 (585) 872-2281

Senior Warden
 Diane Babcock
 (585) 739-3583

Junior Warden
 Peter Rothfuss
 (585) 626-9829



Good Shepherd Webster



@FrLanceRobbins

GOOD SHEPHERD VESTRY

By Diane Castle Babcock, Senior Warden

Once again it was a busy month for the vestry. On Saturday, March 4th, we had a special meeting to continue our work on the church's goals and priorities. Pete Rothfuss synthesized the results of our last discussion. After reviewing the data, the vestry worked to formulate a new mission statement, develop guiding values and set several goals for the coming year(s). This is an ongoing process, which we will continually revisit and revise.

Thanks to Kathy Stokes, who offered this as our new mission statement(tentative): We are here to be God's hands in the world. We welcome all people to share God's love and grace in our community and at the Lord's table.

We formulated a list of guiding values, which are statements that describe who we are as a parish. Here are some of the ideas we developed:

- To believe is to be loved
- We are walking each other home
- Everyone has a gift from God and sharing our gifts enriches our community
- Seeing the face of God in each other
- We are an Episcopal expression of the Jesus Movement
- Three legs of the church- scripture, tradition, and reason
- Worship is very important/Liturgy/Liturgical church
- Music is very important to our community

We used these statements and the results of the survey we took to formulate areas we want to focus on this year and beyond. We need to work to make these goals specific and measurable, but here are the priorities we identified:

- Reach out to existing members/Retention of existing members/Not currently attending
- Continued engagement of parish children/young adults/College-age and up
- Recruitment- increase attendance/membership
- Community engagement
- Commence Leadership Transition process/plan
- COVID recovery
- Stewardship

At our regular Vestry meeting on March 12th, the following topics were discussed: The search committee for a new Bishop has been formed. Father Lance is on the committee; it is wonderful to have Good Shepherd represented in this group, although it will demand a considerable amount of time.

The vestry interviewed Julie Syracuse regarding her call to the priesthood. Julie created and leads the chronological Bible group. She has worked at Meal & More, and has worked with the homeless and the LGBTQ+ community. She believes in talking to people about her faith and that scripture is a living document that calls us into a relationship with God. Julie has completed the discernment process and the discernment committee strongly endorses her as a candidate for ordination. The vestry concurred with the committee's opinion.

Pam Meyris reported as Vestry liaison for the Stitchers. They would like to use one of the basement classrooms for their meetings when the renovations are done. She would also like to purchase a cupboard solely for the Stitchers use.

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Continued

Kris Murray also reported that the fellowship ministry is planning a “scrub down” of the parish hall on March 15th. Fellowship would like help with the coffee hour and suggested that various ministries sign up for a Sunday to provide refreshments. They are also exploring whether we can bring back the potluck suppers for the church community.

Mark Herb made a presentation regarding covers for the Palm Sunday and Easter bulletins that he would create and donate. Mark owns a printing business.

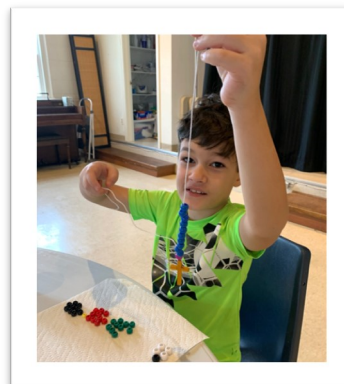
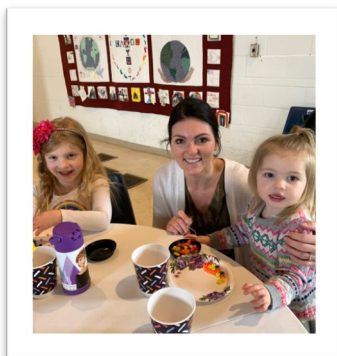
Bruce Dunn presented the budget information for February. Income for the month was down, which was expected because several parishioners paid their pledge in full in January. Bruce reported that we made \$399 in interest income from our upgraded Money Market account. during the month of February. We realized an \$8,738.54 interest income from our diocesan account as well. The RG&E bill is closer to our expectations this month. Bruce is in the process of obtaining purchasing cards that ministry chairs may use when purchasing items for their ministries.

The vestry approved the purchase of new folding chairs for the parish hall. God willing, by the time you all read this they will be in use. We should also have the new narthex exterior door installed in time for Holy Week. Thanks to Chris Nuccitelli for making this happen.

Thank you to all the vestry members for your hard work and dedication.



Debra Nelson visited Sunday school this month and taught the children to make their own prayer beads.





OUTREACH

at Good Shepherd

by Yvonne Arnold

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of the light ~ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Ephesians 5:8-9

Many thanks for your enthusiastic response to the Lenten Box offering! These offerings, once counted, will go to Episcopal Relief and Development for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. Whenever you are ready, please return your box to the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

In March, Outreach disbursed donations to the following organizations:

Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing - \$250.00

Mercy Flight - \$250.00

Family Promise of Rochester (formerly RAIHN) - \$200.00

Hope House, Webster - \$100.00

Shepherd Home, Penfield - \$300.00

Center for Youth - \$300.00

The Time & Talent Fair is Sunday, April 23rd. Please stop by the Outreach station and introduce yourself. We would like to increase the membership of this committee. Before the spring of 2020, Outreach was involved in fundraising activities, such as Chicken BBQs and Afternoon of the Heart, to raise money for Outreach work. At the moment, the budget has a positive balance and we are not in need of funds for disbursement. Nevertheless, consideration and discussion for future events is open. Please consider being a part of this ministry.

Holy Week is symbolic of our lives. The challenges, losses, betrayals, and sadness that we feel during this week are similar to the dark valleys of our lives. Through it all, we are pursued by a loving God. It is often difficult to feel and remember this. On Easter, we are given the gift of new and unending life through Jesus. May we continue be a support to each other during the days when our faith is not as strong as others, when we are living through a time of darkness. We are here to love and care for each other. That is what Outreach is all about.

Alleluia! The Lord has Risen!

**AS SEEN AT
GOOD SHEPHERD**



On March 12, Jack Brennick (left) and Chris Nuccitelli provided the music at the 10:15am service while organist Karyn Robbins took a well-deserved vacation break to visit family.





The Good Shepherd Stitches continue to work on our personalized tote bags. Thanks to Pautlette Bodak for machine embroidering the main pocket on each bag. Sometime in April the Stitches will be moving downstairs into a Sunday School room. Thank you to the Vestry for hearing our concerns about storage and lighting. Thank you to Chris Nucitelli for facilitating the move.

The next book club meeting will be Thursday, April 27 at 10 am via Zoom. We will be discussing *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin. From the bestselling author of *The Mountain Between Us* comes the moving story of a man with a painful past, a little girl with a doubtful future, and a shared journey toward healing for both of their hearts.

Here is the tentative schedule for 2023

| | |
|--------|---|
| May 25 | <i>Small Great Things</i> by Jodi Picoult |
| Jun 22 | <i>The Personal Librarian</i> by Marie Benedict |
| Aug 24 | <i>The Children's Blizzard</i> by Melanie Benjamin |
| Sep 28 | <i>Waiting for the Night Song</i> by Julie Carrick Dalton |
| Oct 26 | <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus |
| Dec 7 | <i>Mistletoe Promise</i> by Richard Paul Evans |

If you want more information about stitches or book club or want to get on the email list, please contact brenda.munch@gmail.com



Happy Spring to all of you!

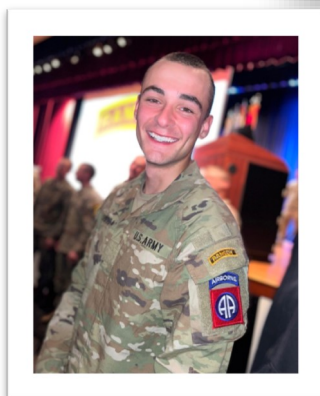


By: Betty Nohle

The Shepherdess is a group of ladies who are alone and wish to gather occasionally for dinner out at night. (We meet at noon in January, February and March.) We provide rides to anyone who needs or does not drive at night. Call me, Betty (585-545-4224).

In April we will once again be going to dinner in the evening. In April we will gather at Charlie Browns in Penfield on the last Tuesday of the month, April **25th**. Fr. Lance and Karyn have been invited to join us on this evening. You will be receiving a notice about this when it gets closer so please save the date.

A Blessed Easter Season!



Nolan C. Svoboda, US ARMY, PVT2, the nephew of Yvonne and Jeff Arnold, successfully completed Army Ranger Training School in March. Nolan completed all three sections of the program without having to recycle through any of the three sections. His family are incredibly proud of him and the dedication he has to serve. Nolan will be receiving a promotion to Specialist (E4). He has returned to Fort Bragg, NC where he will attend the Basic Leaders Course. Be safe, be well Nolan!



Jennifer Anderson
Roger Blum
Jesse Caulkins
Angela Masters
Elizabeth Brashich
Brian Brashich
Jeffrey Brashich
Harry Allen
Linda Kennedy
Jacob Giudice
Tom Nyman
Joe Uhal
Howard Seitzinger
Brooke Bishop
Georgia Interlicchia

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Bertha MacKay
Yvonne Arnold
Joanne Wheatley
Alana Dombroski
Helene Saxman-Vanderbilt
Lorraine Cheney
Ed Kushall
Annie Bishop
Greg Kuberka
Andrea Barbato
Jeff Taylor
Trevor Brashich
Andrew Brashich
Brenda Munch

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by Debra Nelson

Every month, you read an article in the newsletter about our church meal ministry. I thought it was about time that you SEE what it looks like! And exactly how easy the process is! Both the volunteers who cook and deliver and the parishioners who are enjoying the service have passwords to access this information at all times!

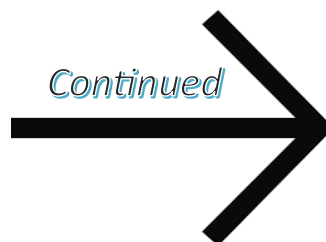
We use an on-line organizational service <https://takethemameal.com/>. Volunteers give their email address to me, Debra Nelson. When one of our church family needs a hand, an email comes from buttler1@hotmail.com but you respond to <https://takethemameal.com/>, choosing the date and recording the meal you plan to make. You receive a reminder from takethemameal.com the day before. You can check a box so you will not receive advertisements from them, too.

The families who are receiving the meals can also access their meal schedule using a password. That way, they always know what food will be delivered each day. They can also contact the cooks with questions or write a brief note of gratitude via email, if they are able. Since their phone number is included, often the cook calls the recipient before they come over with the meal.

ANYONE can contribute a meal. If you eat supper, you can bring a supper! That's why I wanted you to see a "real" meal ministry. You can see what other cooks provided for several meals. Our "diners" generally enjoy simple, homemade cooking, but if you would prefer to get take-out or buy a prepared meal – just make it easy and do whatever you are doing for yourself. It doesn't need to be expensive or elaborate, at all. One of our customers loves grilled cheese and tomato soup!

We have helped people of all ages, from compound fractures to temporary elder care. It is a rewarding ministry when you have the chance to meet someone new and make their day much easier. Or you may visit someone you have known for years and renew a friendship. The "real" fellow in this example enjoyed peanut butter & jelly, chocolate milk, chocolate chips cookies and a nice chat. How simple is that?

If you want to try it out, send an email to buttler1@hotmail.com or call Debra at 585-671-5581 or 261-9570. Thank you!!





Deliver Meals To:

123 Fourth St., Webster, NY 14580

585-671-4444

Notes from Debra Nelson:

Larry is a healthy 90 year old who loves all kinds of food - but soft food is best: pasta, small sandwiches on soft bread, soups, etc. Please make portions on the smaller side so he has room for dessert. Larry has NO dietary restrictions. Please date the containers so his daughters can keep the refrigerator contents current.

Please call ahead. Leave a message because if he isn't wearing his hearing aids, he may not hear the phone. Larry is used to the Sunday afternoon drop off between 3:00 and 5:00 and usually will be waiting for you with the door open or one of his daughters will be there at that time. Larry looks forward to a brief visit when he can answer the door.

In this spot I put a list of email addresses so they will send you an invitation, updates, reminders, notes from the recipient, etc. There is also a box for you to check so you do not receive advertisements!

Invite Friends

Sign Up to Take Them A Meal!

Sun, Jun 5

Georgia I.

Salmon and sides

Sun, Jun 12

Lenore O.

Grilled chicken, fruit etc.

Sun, Jun 26

Jayne W.

Baby back ribs, potato salad, chopped salad, fruit

This section has open dates for you to sign up for a meal delivery. It is helpful if you can plan what you are cooking so others make something different!

The Meal Schedule Is Full!

Contact the Meal Coordinator to ask if there are other ways you can help!

Debra Nelson

585--671-5581

It is great when this message shows up!



THE HAPPY FACES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD A MEAL & MORE WEDNESDAY TEAM



Annie Bishop



Chris Nuccitelli & John Davidson



Cheri Mascitti



Debra Nelson



Fr. Lance & Karyn Robbins



Peter Rothfuss

The food donation focus for the month is:

JUICE – APPLE VARIETIES
SALAD DRESSING
LONG GRAIN RICE
CONDIMENTS

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Jeff Taylor



John & Pamela Trompeter